

The Honorable Sonny Perdue Secretary,
U.S. Department of Agriculture 1400
Independence Ave.,
SW Washington, DC 20250

Ms. Vicki Christiansen Chief, U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave.,
SW Washington, DC 20250

**Dear Secretary Perdue and
Chief Christiansen:**

We are commercial fishermen who live and work in the Tongass National Forest. We represent various gear groups that participate in Southeast salmon fisheries, including seine, troll, and gillnet. Some of us are just breaking into the industry; some of us have carried on a family tradition over generations. All of us are invested in smart, sustainable stewardship of the resources, lands and waters that sustain our industry and the people of Southeast Alaska. The future of our industry, our lifestyle, our ability to feed our families and the American people, all depends upon the salmon populations that are supported by the clean water and healthy, intact fish habitat of the Tongass. For that reason, we urge you to select an alternative for the Alaska Roadless Rule that provides protections for critical fish habitat, continues the phase-out of industrial scale old growth clearcutting, and prioritizes the restoration of degraded watersheds and streams.

Commercial fishing is the economic backbone of Southeast Alaska. There are troll permit holders living in every single community in Southeast Alaska. 80% of all the Southeast salmon permit holders - trollers, seiners, and gillnetters - are Alaskan residents. We are small business owners that support our local communities year-round. One in ten jobs in Southeast is in the seafood industry, and we contribute 10% of all regional employment earnings. According to a McDowell report on the Economic Value of the Alaskan Seafood Industry (2013), these percentages equate to direct employment of 13,500 individuals and an estimated \$321 million in labor income in the Southeast region alone.

Decisions made on the basis of maps in Washington D.C. have palpable implications for our lifestyles and livelihoods. Our livelihoods rely on the health of the salmon, and salmon are reliant upon the health of the Tongass National Forest; these streams and rivers produce 80% of the commercial salmon harvested from Southeast Alaska each year.

We are economically invested in the protection of the top salmon-producing watersheds on the Tongass, as well as the health of the forest ecosystem. Industrial scale logging negatively impacts fish habitat with region-wide effects, and we are concerned about the effects that a new Alaska Roadless Rule could have



John W. Bean, Petersburg, F/V Loon

Kelsey Kennedy, Tenakee Springs, F/V Sumo



on our industry
and the resource we
depend upon.

There are many challenges
facing salmon populations that
are beyond our control, such as
changing ocean conditions, climate
change and ocean acidification, and
treaty agreements. By contrast, the fate of the
Alaska Roadless Rule is well within your control.

By conserving the most valuable and productive
watersheds for fish production, the 2001 Roadless Rule is
working for us. As you weigh your decision about the Alaska
Roadless Rule, we collectively urge you to keep the Tongass Transition on track and
phase out old growth logging; protect the T77 and TNC/Audubon areas and the
other top salmon-producing watersheds in the forest, especially those on northern
Prince of Wales island; and urge the Forest Service to invest in stream rehabilitation
and watershed restoration with the goal of improving salmon habitat and salmon
production. **We advocate for these management prescriptions as a start,
but we maintain that they are nowhere near sufficient.** The T77 proposal
excludes many of the most productive salmon streams on the Tongass, especially those
on Prince of Wales Island, which contains a third of Southeast's most productive salmon
streams. Prince of Wales is also the island that has sustained the worst impacts from the
logging industry, both historically and at present. The island and the productivity of the
anadromous waters on it will continue to suffer if the 2001 Roadless Rule protections
are removed. With the future of Southeast Alaska's most important resource at risk,
the Forest Service must work harder to protect and restore productivity in all the
anadromous waters of Southeast Alaska, from the waters located in intact habitat as
well as those in previously-degraded habitat.

As much as salmon fishing is our economic livelihood, it is also a lifestyle; we live
in the communities that we fish out of, and we are invested in the economic, social, and
ecological prosperity of these communities. We need to strengthen and protect the
Tongass National Forest in order for it to keep it producing salmon for local economies,
our families, our communities, and the next generation of fishermen. This forest
supports a way of life that is unique across the world, and any new Alaska Roadless
Rule should endeavor to protect and sustain this lifestyle in perpetuity. Thank you for
your consideration.

Sincerely,

- Spencer Severson; *F/V Dryas*
- Eric Jordan; *F/V I Gotta*
- Jesse Remund; *F/V Faithful*
- Marty Remund and Laurie Mastrella;
F/V Teasha
- Tracy Sylvester; *F/V Faithful*
- Ember Livingston-Emmons; *F/V Quest*



Don + Angela Hernandez, Sitka, F/V West Rock

- Charlie Wilber; *F/V Alexa K*
- Woody Cyr; *F/V Patience*
- Walt Corum; *F/V Seawolf*
- Chad Winnop; *F/V Myra*
- Gavin Cambak; *F/V Jetta D*
- Jeff Martinson; *F/V Tamarack*
- David Richey; *F/V Albee Rose*
- Courtney Howard; *F/V Mickey V*
- William L Patrick; *F/V Defiant*
- Drew Terhaar; *F/V Mary Carl*
- Randall Nichols; *F/V Nekton*
- Jeff Farvor; *F/V Apollo*
- Jeff Turner; *F/V Mirage*
- Francis Mendez; *F/V Ilona B*
- Chris Peterson; *F/V Ida Marie*
- Lance Preston; *F/V Duna*
- Stan Lopata; *F/V Eileen*
- Dan Dunn; *F/V Eigel B*
- Tom Van Eeckhout; *F/V Drea Mor*
- Lory Teas; *F/V Invictus*

- Olivia Wilson; *F/V Seabreeze*
- Deena Hard; *F/V Erin K*
- Daniel Hand; *F/V Erin K*
- Tracy Rivera; *F/V Good News*
- Uriah Strong; *F/V Njord*
- Mark Meyer; *F/V Contagious*
- Sommers Cole; *F/V Energizer*
- Joe and Joan Kautzer; *F/V Alta E*
- Franz Sunonburg; *F/V Sea Spy*
- Arne Dahl; *F/V Jubilee*
- Kelsey Kennedy; *F/V Sumo*
- Justin Bate; *F/V Avalon*
- Dom Larson; *Boston Whaler*
- John W. Bean; *F/V Loon*
- Don and Angela Hernandez; *F/V West Rock*
- Abby Hosier; *F/V Ebb and Flow*
- John Magnuson; *F/V Harmony*
- Thomas Wood; *F/V Lutele*
- Ezra Sbonek; *F/V Red Salmonberry*



William L. Patrick, Sitka, *F/V Defiant*



John W. Bean, Petersburg, *F/V Loon*



Woody Cyr, Sitka, *F/V Patience*



Jesse Remund + Tracy Sylvester, Sitka, *F/V Faithful*



Drew Terhaar, Sitka, *F/V Mary Carl*



Lance Preston, Sitka, *F/V Duna*



Abby Hosier, Port Protection,
F/V Ebb and Flow



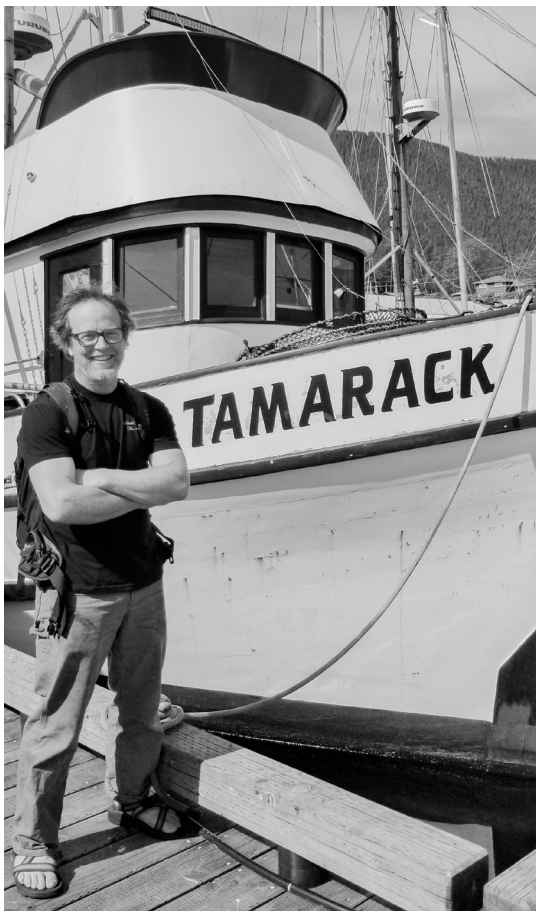
Tom Van Eeckhart, Tenakee Springs,
F/V Drea Mor



Don Angela Hernandez, Point Baker,
F/V West Rock



Spencer Severson, Sitka, *F/V Dryas*



Jeff Martinson, Sitka, *F/V Tamarack*



Lory Teas, Tenakee Springs, *F/V Invictus*



Eric + Rose Jordan, Sitka, *F/V I Gotta*



Kelsey Kennedy, Tenakee Springs,
F/V Sumo



Ezra Sbonek, Sitka,
F/V Red Salmonberry



Mark Meyer, Tenakee Springs,
F/V Contagious



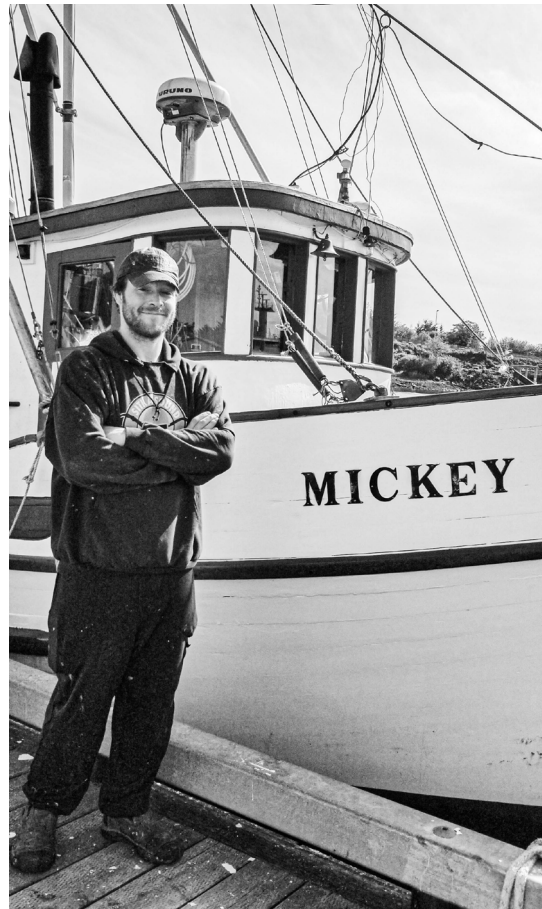
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Tracy Rivera Tenakee Springs,
F/V Good News



David Richey, Sitka, *F/V Albee Rose*



Courtney Howard, Sitka, *F/V Mickey V*



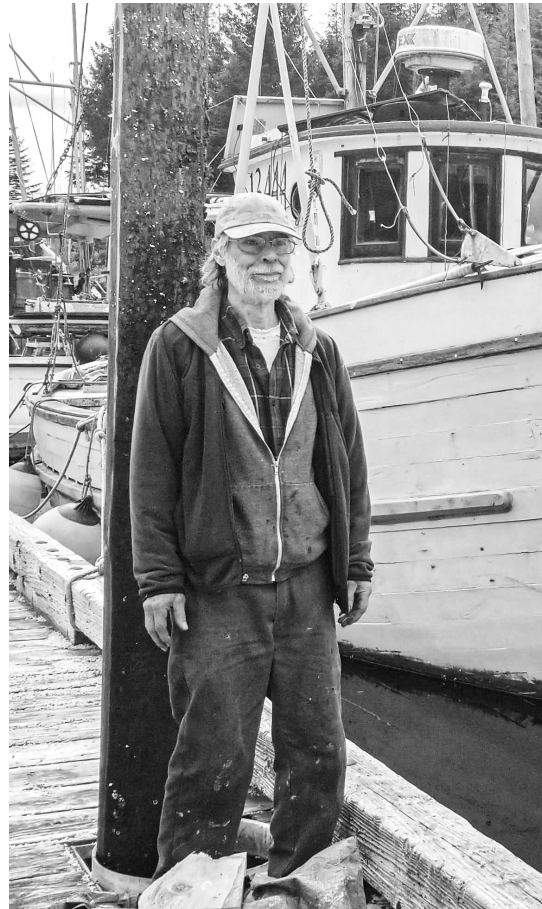
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Charlie Wilber, Sitka, *F/V Alexa K*



Dan Dunn, Sitka, *F/V Eigel B*



John Magnuson, Petersburg,
F/V Harmony



Gavin Campbak, Sitka, *F/V Jetta D*



Walt + Sage Coram, Port Alexander,
F/V Seawolf



Jeff Farvor, Sitka, *F/V Apollo*



Deena Hand, Tenakee Springs,
F/V Erin K